

IV. PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT AREA ANALYSIS

WETLANDS

Prepared by Guy Stefanski

Section 309 Enhancement Objective

Protection, restoration, or enhancement of the existing coastal wetlands base, or creation of new coastal wetlands

Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine the extent to which problems and opportunities exist with regard to the enhancement objective.

1. Please indicate the extent, status, and trends of wetlands in the coastal zone using the following:

Wetlands type	Estimated historic extent (acres)	Current extent (acres)	Trends in acres lost since 2006 (Net acres gained & lost)	Acres gained through voluntary mechanism since 2006	Acres gained through mitigation since 2006	Year and source(s) of Data
Tidal vegetated	262,000 ¹	228,965 ¹	34 lost ² 51 gained ^{3,4} (17 net acres gained)	38 ³	13 ⁴	¹ 1994 DCM, ² 2006-2010 DWQ & ACOE, ³ NCCF, ⁴ NCDOT, ⁵ Pocosin Lakes NWR, ⁶ Mitigation Banks, ⁷ EEP
Tidal non-vegetated	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	see #2 below
Non-tidal/freshwater	2,582,700 ¹	2,273,030 ¹	1638 lost ² 31,913 gained ^{3,4,5,6,7} (30,275 net acres gained)	*27,684 ^{3,5}	3229 ^{4,6,7}	

**Of the 27,684 acres gained through voluntary mechanisms, 27,492 acres of pocosin wetlands are being restored as part of a large hydrologic restoration project being conducted by the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (2008-2010).*

This table does not include impacts to tidal vegetated wetlands permitted by the Division of Coastal Management through its major and general permitting program. This data is currently being downloaded from DCM's permit files into DCM's permit tracking database (CDAITS) and, at this time, is not available for extraction and/or analysis. However, DCM expects this data to be available by late 2011 or early 2012.

In researching this information, there is noticeable data discrepancy regarding permitted impacts which appear inconsistent, sometimes inaccurate and in some cases, not even tracked. There seems to be accurate data on mitigation provided, particularly through the EEP and DOT- both these programs keep databases tracking mitigation provided on behalf of permittees associated